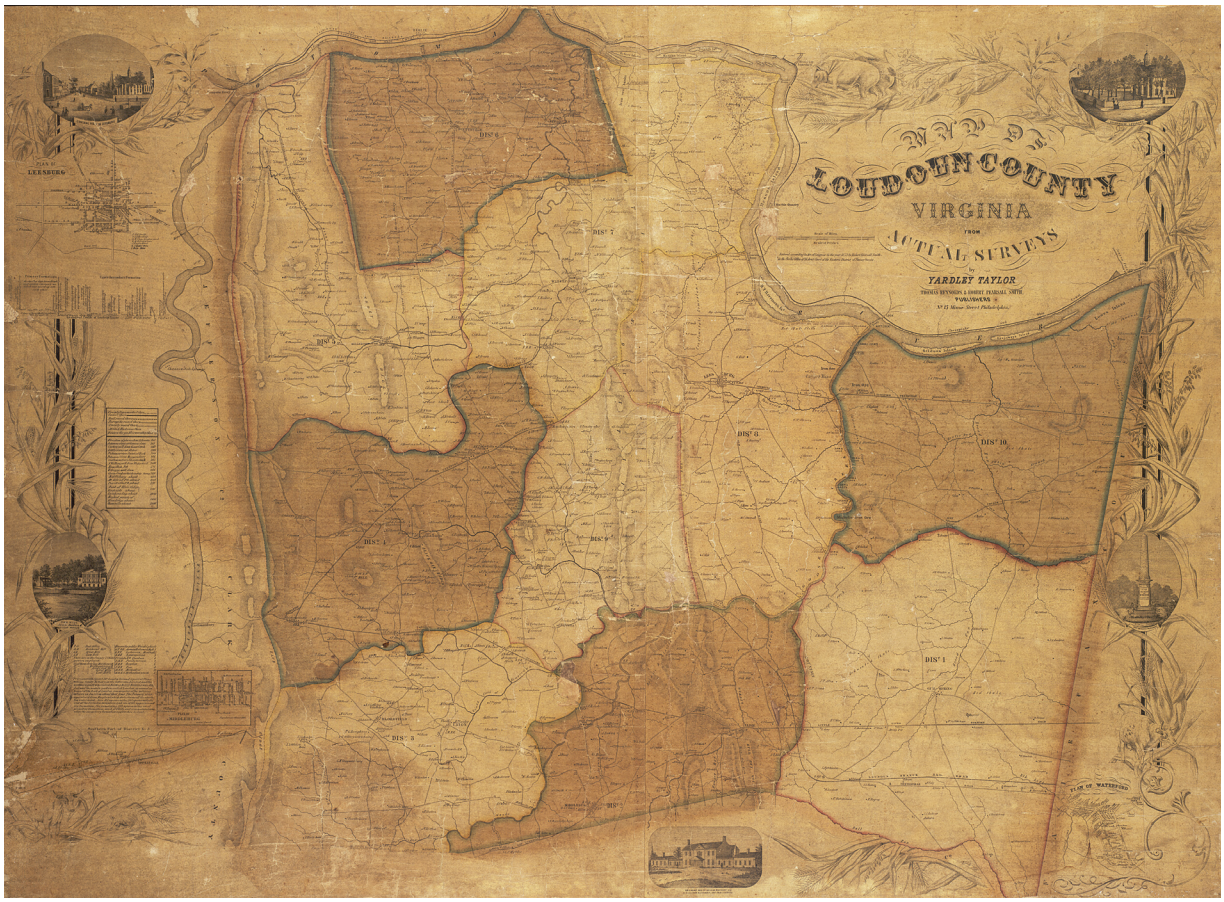
CHAPTER 2
History and Architecture

You are the next chapter in the history of your district. You have an important responsibility as a steward of a property in a historically significant area. When you contemplate making changes to your property, consider those options that contribute to that history rather than detract from it.



The first map of Loudoun County showing building locations and property owners names was made by local mapmaker, Yardley Taylor, in 1853.

A. OVERVIEW

1. General Loudoun County History and Development

Loudoun County was formed from a portion of Fairfax County in 1757. It was named for John Campbell, the fourth Earl of Loudoun. Campbell commanded the British army in the French and Indian War (1754-1763), prior to his appointment as Governor of Virginia in 1756.

The first settlers in the western section of Loudoun County arrived between 1725 and 1730. Most of the county's early inhabitants came from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland and reflected German, Irish, and Scots-Irish heritage. Among these first permanent settlers were the Quakers who settled in the present-day Waterford, Lincoln, Hamilton, and Unison. English settlers from Tidewater Virginia also settled in Loudoun, in the lower or eastern section of the county.

In 1774, two weeks after the Boston Port Bill closed the harbor as England's response to the Boston Tea Party, the citizens of Loudoun met. They adopted the Loudoun Resolves, which were subsequently presented to the General Assembly and the Continental Congress. In this document, county citizens stated their unwillingness to pay taxes without representation and elected to have no commercial relationship with Great Britain.

When Washington was burned by the British during the War of 1812, Loudoun County served as a haven for both President Madison (at Belmont) and important state papers including the Constitution (at Rokeby).

A. OVERVIEW

1. General Loudoun County History and Development, continued

The Civil War split the county over secession. The Quakers and other northern and central county residents were against slavery and therefore against secession, while large landowners in the eastern portion favored secession.

A number of early trade routes, including the Carolina Road (US Route 15), Leesburg Pike (Virginia State Route 7), the Little River Turnpike (US Route 50), and the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad, bisect the county. Despite these heavily traveled routes, the relatively small farm size characteristic of the western portion of the county encouraged stability rather than a pattern of growth. The county remained primarily agricultural from its early settlement until the mid-twentieth century. Census numbers remained constant between 20,000 and 25,000 from 1790 until 1960.

The building of Dulles Airport in the 1960s, coupled with the growth of suburban Washington, DC, has attracted more residents to the county and has resulted in a fifty percent population increase in each decade since the 1960s.

The 2006 population of the county was estimated at approximately 269,000 – an increase of 100,000 from 2000 and Loudoun has been noted in the past several years as one of the fastest growing counties in the entire country.

The upper one and one-half stories of the Goose Creek Meeting House were lost to fire in 1946. Its simple gable form and brick construction is similar to many early dwellings in the district.

The location of the Goose Creek Meeting House, at the junction of Foundry and Lincoln roads, was chosen for its convenience to two local trading routes. This stone structure served as the meeting house for the Goose Creek Friends from 1765 until 1819.

B. CHARACTER OF THE GOOSE CREEK HISTORIC AND CULTURAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1. History and Development

In 1744, the first Quaker settlers in Loudoun County established a meeting in Waterford. As news of this settlement spread, Quakers from Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey came to the area in increasing numbers. The rolling hills of the 10,000-acre rural section of central Loudoun County now comprising the Goose Creek Historic District provided a large area of fertile farmland. By 1750, a second meeting was established in the small village Goose Creek (now Lincoln). Goose Creek would eventually be home to Virginia's largest concentration of Quaker settlers.

The Quakers of Goose Creek, like others of their pacifist faith, refused to serve or hold government office during the Revolution. In 1824, a society was formed in Goose Creek village to help send slaves back to Haiti or Africa. They also provided cheap land to freed slaves for the building of houses.

During the Civil War, Goose Creek Quakers sided with the Union. Although Union General Philip Sheridan came through the area in 1864, the Quaker settlements were generally spared the destruction seen elsewhere in the county. It was at this time that the original name of the village, Goose Creek, was changed to Lincoln.

Farming practices such as crop rotation and fertilization were both employed by Quakers long before they were common practice elsewhere. Continued success enabled farmers to support the thriving village of Lincoln. Mid-nineteenth century records indicate commercial entities in the village included two general stores, a foundry, blacksmith, tan yard, shoemaker, tin shop, livery, cider press, undertaker, two doctors, three schools and four churches.

B. CHARACTER OF THE GOOSE CREEK HISTORIC AND CULTURAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT, continued

Smaller hamlets include Mount Gilead and Hughsville. Mount Gilead, located on Hogback Mountain, was founded in 1823 and consists of several early- to mid-nineteenth century residences, two stores, a school and shoemaker's shop. Hughsville was a late-eighteenth century settlement that grew to include a store, church, post office and school.

Relatively unchanged over time, the Goose Creek Historic District began to feel the development pressures associated with the growth of Loudoun County in the last quarter of the twentieth century. Local residents, including descendants of original Quaker settlers, worked with John Lewis, the regional surveyor for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to establish the historic district in 1977.

Today, the retention of the historic character of this open land and its place in the region's history is in jeopardy. Historic Quaker farms were typically several hundred acres. With every subdivision of these larger parcels, a choice can be made in how to site and design the new construction. Will it follow the suburban model seen outside the historic districts or will it follow the precedents set by the district's unique history?

2. Setting

Located in central Loudoun County, Goose Creek Historic District is south of Purcellville and Hamilton and north of the North Fork of Goose Creek. The district is further bounded by Hogback Mountain to the east and Black Oak Ridge to the west.

The farmland surrounding the village of Lincoln was divided into parcels of a few hundred acres – a pattern still represented by a majority of landowners in the district. These parcels were large enough to provide an income yet small enough to be farmed by a family, as the Quakers did not believe in slave labor. Still mainly unimproved, a network of tree-lined roads developed to connect these small farms to the village and to local mills located along the creeks and streams that traverse the district.

This Goose Creek family takes time out from early-twentieth-century farm chores to sit for a photograph. Note the mature trees that surround the house.

Farms in the district are characterized by rolling open fields, often bounded by stands of indigenous trees. Private lanes often lead past agricultural outbuildings to houses sited to take best advantage of the weather.

In Lincoln, the village character largely reflects the late-nineteenth century. With notable exceptions such as the Quaker Meetinghouse and School complex, Springdale, and Evergreen, home of Quaker cartographer, Yardley Taylor, the majority of surviving structures date to the post-Civil War era. Both commercial and residential structures on Foundry Road are moderately set back from the road and are uniformly spaced to provide a compact feeling to the village.

A concrete sidewalk extends from the village north on Lincoln Road to the public school. Overhead utilities and streetlights line the main street, their presence softened by many mature tall evergreen trees.

Many residential lots have enclosed front yards with fences. Stonewalls and low hedges are also characteristic in the village. Rear lots may retain historic outbuildings such as small barns, sheds and chicken coops.

The earliest brick dwelling in the district is Shelburne Glebe, built in 1772 of Flemish bond construction.

3. Architecture

The oldest farmhouses in the district are small simple stone dwellings built by Quaker settlers in the mid-eighteenth century. They are generally two-room, gable-roofed, one- and one-half story structures. These dwellings set the architectural vocabulary for the district and are the largest concentration of stone architecture in the county.

Often the roofs of these early structures were later raised to provide a full second story. Additions of stone, brick, or frame were also made as the settlers' fortunes improved. These additions may dwarf the smaller original dwellings. (See *Guidelines for New Construction* in *Chapter 4* and *Additions* in *Chapter 5* for information on the appropriate relationship of new additions to historic buildings.)

During the nineteenth century larger stone houses were constructed in the district. These residences were typically two full stories, with interior stone end chimneys, stone quoins, and molded wooden cornices. A number of stone outbuildings including stone barns and springhouses can be found in the district as well.

Typical of early brick construction in the district is a two-story, gable-roofed house with a molded wooden or brick cornice and flat arches above the windows. Most surviving brick outbuildings are kitchens that have subsequently been attached to the main structure.

Log structures in the district typically date to the nineteenth century. These dwellings are usually one- and one-half stories, constructed of v-notched logs with an exterior stone chimney.

The earliest frame residence in the district dates to 1832 and was built in the Federal style with an interior brick end chimney. Additions and freestanding frame construction during this period were typically clad in weatherboard.

The district's highest concentration of late-nineteenth century frame, vernacular Victorian architecture is found in the village of Lincoln. Two-story I-house and end-gabled forms line Lincoln Road. Many of these structures are accented with German siding, porches, and decorative millwork. The two remaining historic commercial structures in Lincoln are frame construction.

Churches and schools are found throughout the district. The stone meeting house in Lincoln is the district's oldest religious structure, built around 1765. Outgrown by 1817, it was replaced by the current brick structure, which lost its second story in 1946. Non-Quaker churches in the district include brick structures in the Federal and Greek Revival styles, and simple frame and African American stone churches from the late-nineteenth century.

B. CHARACTER OF THE GOOSE CREEK HISTORIC AND CULTURAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT, continued

Oakland Green exhibits wings constructed from each of the most common building materials in the Goose Creek district: log, stone and brick.

The 1815 Quaker Oak Dale School, at the intersection of Foundry and Lincoln roads, is the oldest school in the district. Other schoolhouses include Springdale, built in 1823 as a boarding school, a pre-Civil War frame building at Hughsville, a small stone schoolhouse converted to a residence near Lincoln, an 1879 two-story brick high school, and the 1926 Lincoln Elementary School.

NOTE:

Property owners are the next chapter in the history of each district. They have an important responsibility as a steward of a property in a historically significant area. When each property owner contemplates making changes to their property, they should consider those options that contribute to that history rather than detract from it.

This two-story stone structure is typical of early vernacular construction in the rural areas of the Goose Creek Historic and Cultural Conservation District.

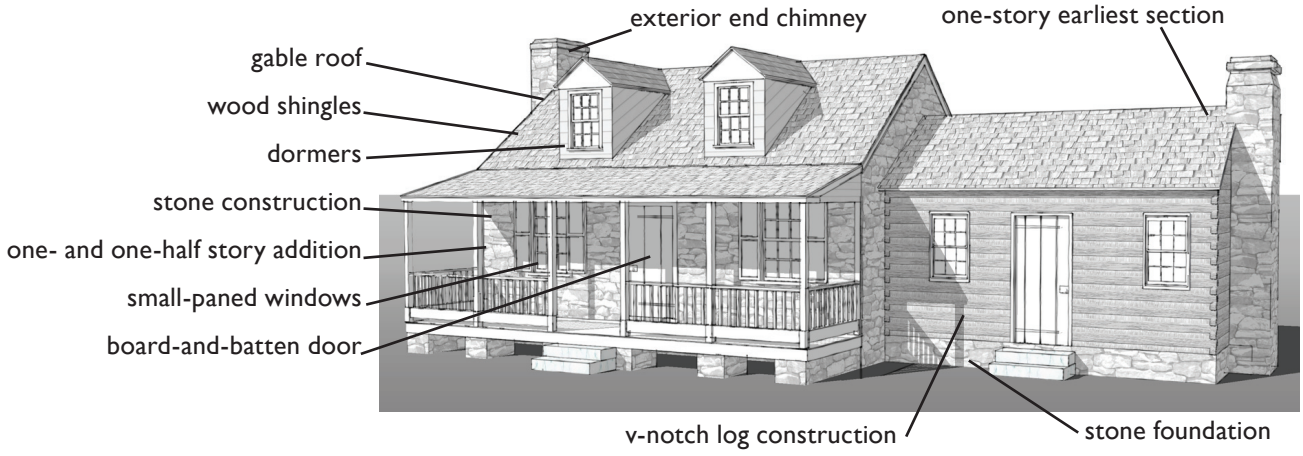
C. ARCHITECTURAL STYLES/FORMS/TYPES

1. Early Vernacular Dwellings: 1700-1780

The earliest structures were small and often made of logs. Sometimes referred to as "patent houses", these structures were of a dimension that fulfilled requirements of a land patent required to retain permanent ownership of the lot. As the owner's circumstance improved, a brick or stone dwelling in the vernacular Georgian or Federal style might be attached to the earlier, smaller structure.

Most examples are one to one-and one-half stories and have steeply pitched roofs, large exterior end chimneys, very small window openings, and batten doors.

EARLY VERNACULAR DWELLING



C. ARCHITECTURAL STYLES/FORMS/TYPES, continued

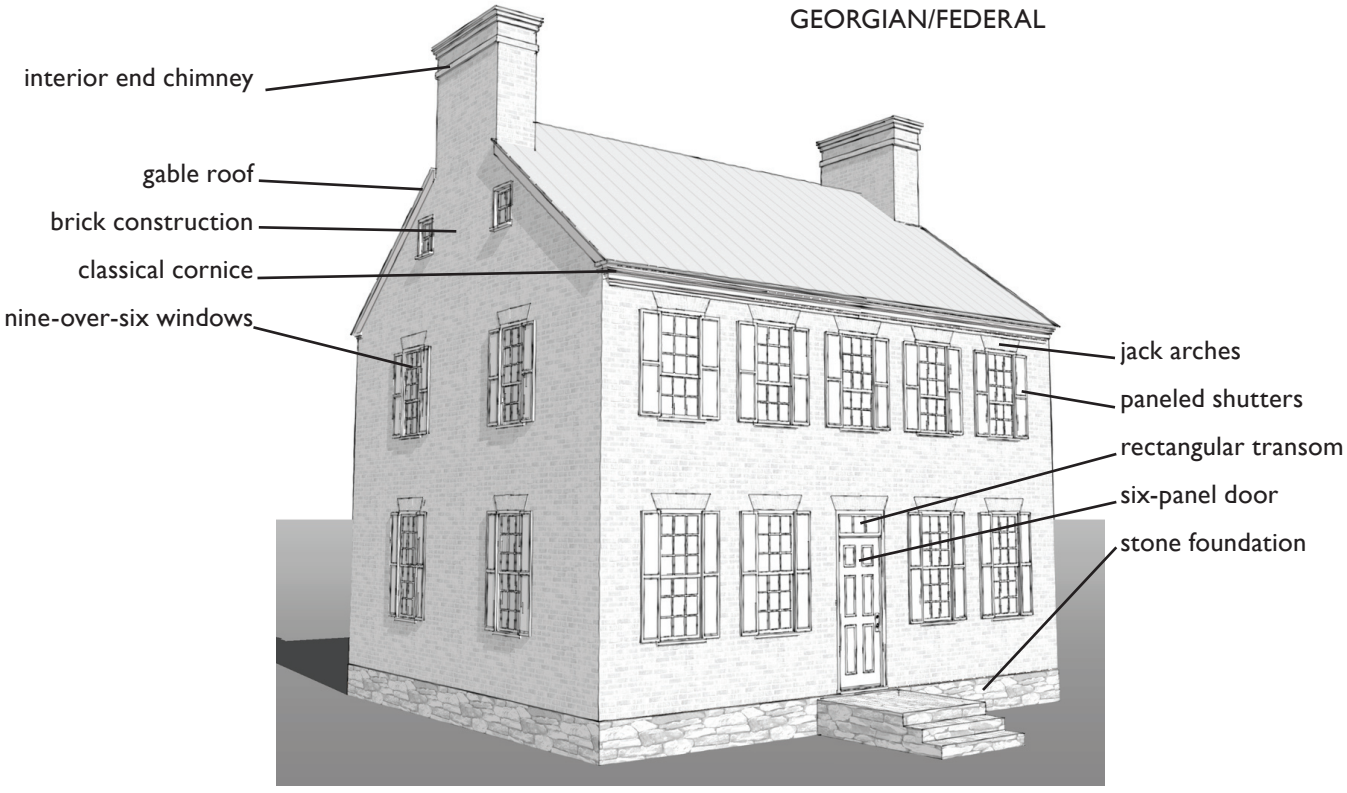
This example of the townhouse form of the Federal style features a semi-circular fanlight over the front door and jack arches over six-over-six windows. The windows are smaller on the second floor than on the first; a technique called dimunition of fenestration employed to add more verticality to a structure.

2. Georgian/Federal: 1770-1830

These residences are usually two stories and have a gable roof and sometimes a raised basement. Wall materials are usually brick or stone, although there are some weatherboard clad examples. Brick patterns may be Flemish or American bond. Exterior end chimneys are seen in some examples, however, interior chimneys gained popularity by the end of the eighteenth century.

Facades are symmetrical, usually with a central entrance. Windows have small panes and are frequently framed with operable shutters. Some examples feature roof dormers.

Decorative details may include a rectangular transom or fanlight over the entrance. The cornice may be unadorned or decorated with modillion blocks, dentils, or other carved details.

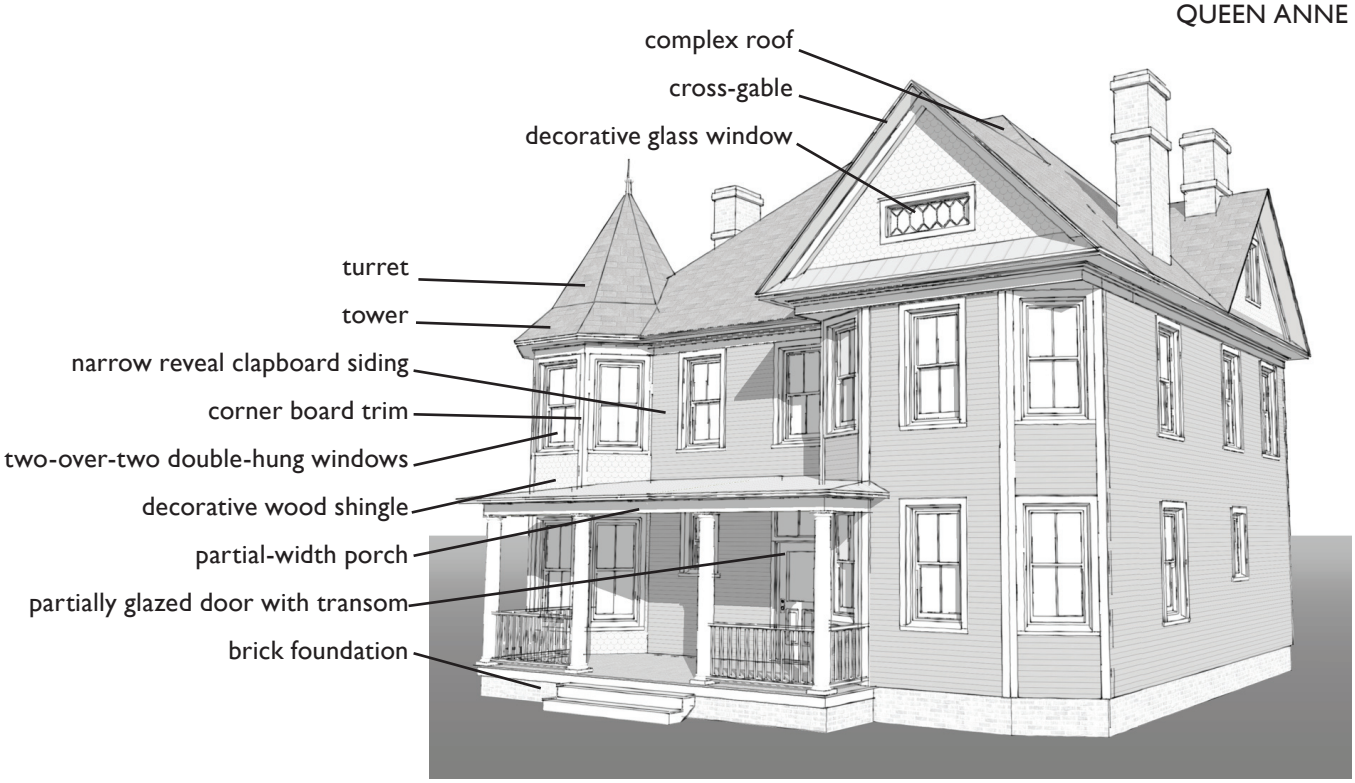


3. Queen Anne: 1880-1910

These dwellings are characterized by a complex roof, vertical proportions, asymmetrical facades, and a wraparound porch. More elaborate examples are richly decorated with brackets, balusters, window surrounds, bargeboards, and other sawn millwork. The designs may also employ a variety of surface materials such as wood siding, shingles, and brick. Roof turrets, decorative tall chimneys, and a variety of gable forms highlight the skylines of these large residences.

Although modified from its original design, this dwelling in Lincoln exhibits many Queen Anne details including an asymmetrical appearance, a tower with decorative wooden shingles, and a complex roof form.

QUEEN ANNE



C. ARCHITECTURAL STYLES/FORMS/TYPES, continued

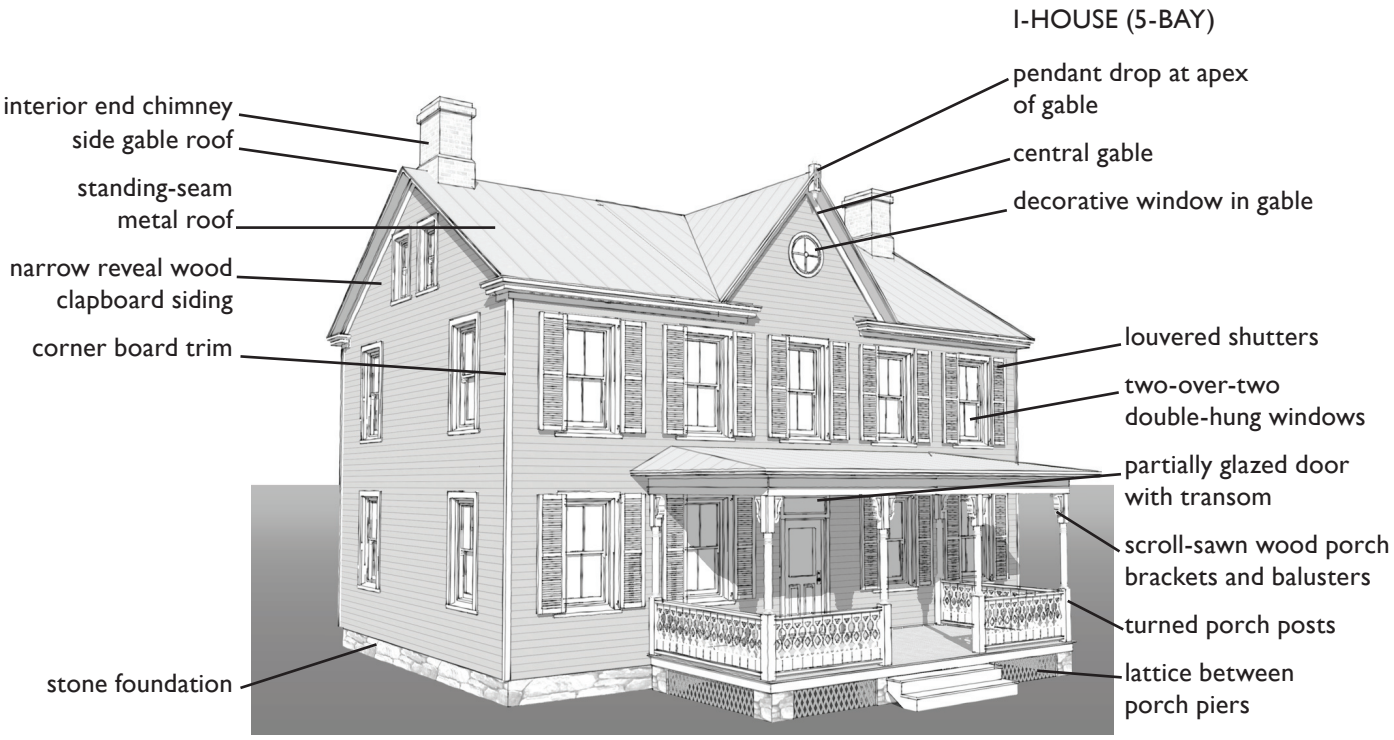
4. Vernacular Victorian: 1860-1910

Built in the decades surrounding the turn-of-the-century, these predominantly frame houses all have simple Victorian details.

a. I-House (5-bay)

This simply designed house is of frame construction, has two stories, five bays, and usually has a one-story front porch that extends across most of the facade.

Many examples include a centered cross gable often highlighted with decorative woodwork or a change in cladding material texture.



b. L-Gable

This two-story frame dwelling is another vernacular variation. The L-shaped floor plan is covered by a standing-seam metal cross-gabled roof. A one-story porch repeats the "L." Two-over-two windows and a transom over the front door are period-appropriate features.

The arched window in the gable end and scroll-sawn porch brackets provide decorative elements.

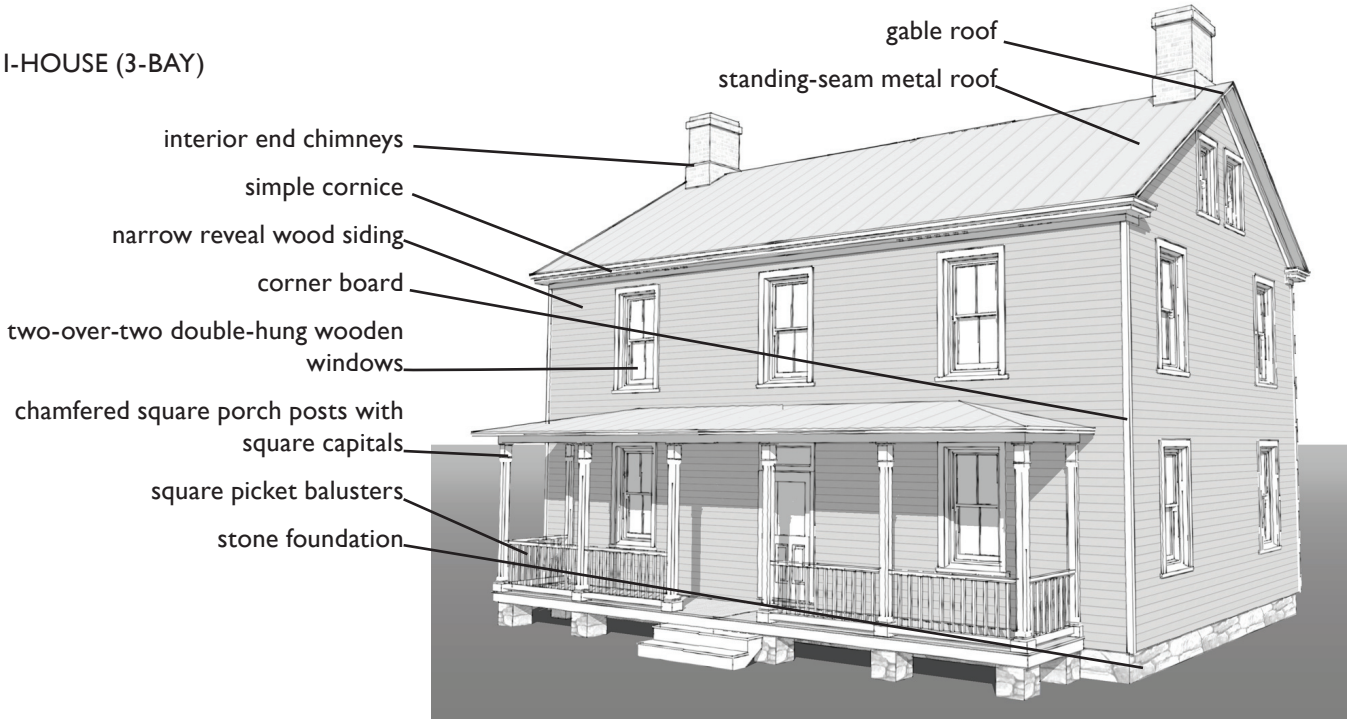
c. I-House (3-bay)

Less complex in its design and decoration than the 5-bay example on the previous page, the 3-bay I-house is one of the most prevalent house styles of the Victorian era. Examples may or may not have a centered cross gable.

Other decorative elements are more restrained and may include rectangular porch posts and simple turned balusters. Cornices and trim details around windows and doors are also simplified.

Paired windows and an asymmetrical entry are usually associated with the Queen Anne style. This vernacular example mixes Victorian details such as a shingled central gable and Colonial Revival elements including classical porch posts and corner trim boards details.

I-HOUSE (3-BAY)



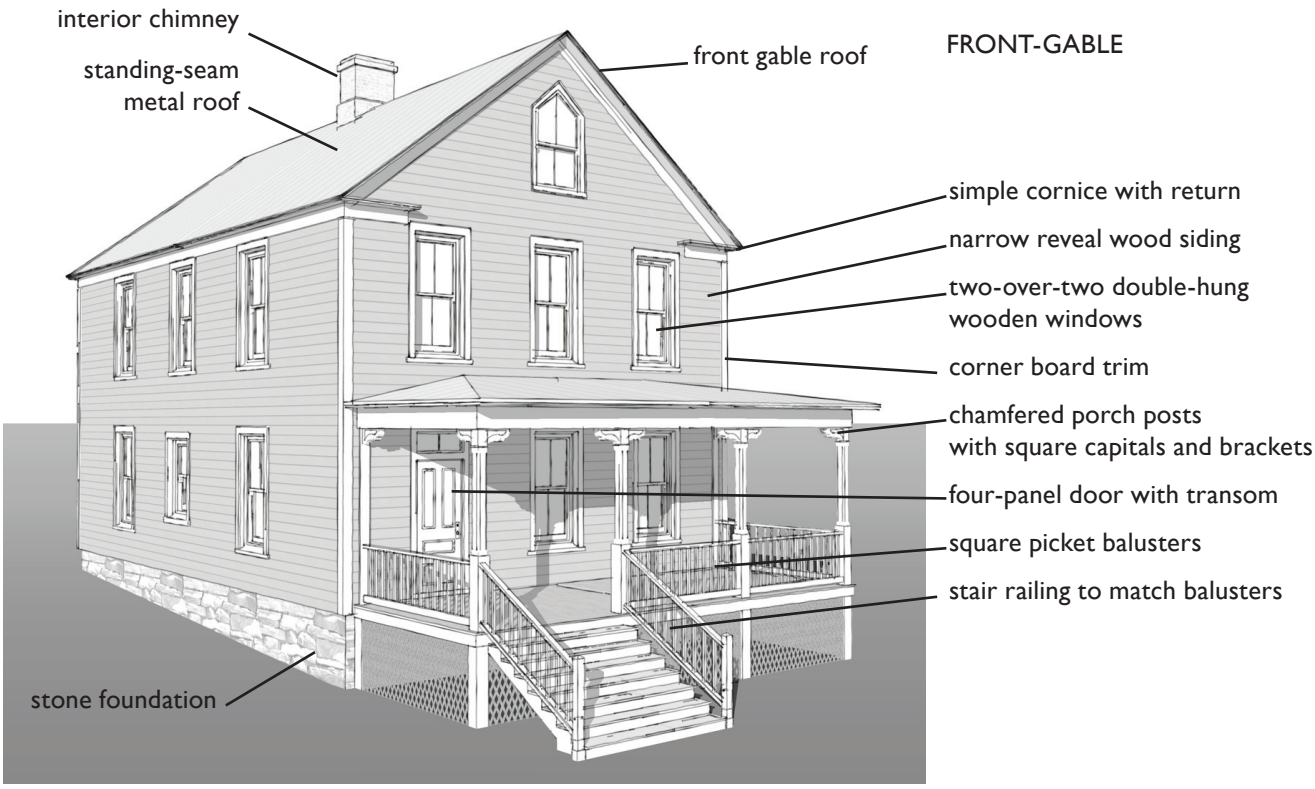
C. ARCHITECTURAL STYLES/FORMS/TYPES, continued

Front-gable designs often employed a decoratively shaped window in the attic story. Here the window is in the form of a Gothic arch and may have been a sign of the builder's familiarity with the Gothic Revival style popular in the mid-nineteenth century. Also of note is the side bay often associated with Italianate style of the same period.

d. Front-Gable

By turning the 3-bay I-house 90 degrees, the gable end of the roof becomes the front of the structure and heightens its vertical proportions.

Like cross-gable I-house examples, there is often a window in the gable end of these dwellings. Porches are full width and shelter an asymmetrically placed front door.



5. Colonial Revival: 1910-1940

In a conscious return to elements of the earlier Georgian and Federal periods of American architectural history, these houses often have a rectangular plan and a symmetrical facade. Roofs may be gable, hipped, or gambrel, and details are often classical. Porticos over the entrance are common. As in the styles from which the Colonial Revival borrows, the windows have small panes; their proportions, however, are often more horizontal and the first floor sometimes contains paired or triple windows. Doorways can have various elements including sidelights, fanlights, pediments, and columns or pilasters.

The design of this two-story Colonial Revival house uses wall dormers with paired windows to break the standing-seam gable roof line. A classical portico highlights the front entrance.

6. Commercial and Institutional Buildings

Although the districts of Aldie, Bluemont, Oatlands and Taylorstown are predominantly residential, the occasional general store, church, or school can be found. Often these commercial or institutional buildings will follow the established designs for their particular use or adapt those more commonly found in residential structures.

Often referred to as a Cape Cod, this smaller Colonial Revival dwelling displays many of the character-defining features of the style including a symmetrical facade and small-paned windows.

The end gable style was adapted for commercial use as seen in this image of the Lincoln post office.